

THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL
GUARD—NORWEGIAN HOME
GUARD TROOP RECIPROCAL EX-
CHANGE PROGRAM

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program. The program is the longest running military exchange between two nations, and it has strengthened the ties between our countries while enriching the lives of the young men and women who have participated in it.

Each February, over 200 soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard and Norwegian Home Guard leave their homes and join the guards of each other's nation. They spend two to three weeks in the other country, training with the host military, visiting cultural sites, and getting to know their new peers. The exchange guards even spend a weekend with a host family, to enrich their experience in the host nation.

The Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program is of great value to both our peacekeeping and cultural goals. By training in Norway, members of the Minnesota National Guard gain experience operating in a foreign environment. At the same time, participants from both countries have an opportunity to explore a new culture and to travel at a young age. The Norwegian-Americans of the Minnesota National Guard also have a chance to explore their family roots in Norway. Finally, the coordination between our nations' militaries reinforces our mutual dedication to working for world peace.

I am pleased to recognize the Minnesota National Guard—Norwegian Home Guard Troop Reciprocal Exchange Program for its 25 years of accomplishments, and I wish the program its continued success in the future.

WILMA DEAN OF BARTHOLOMEW
COUNTY, IN

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an inspiring story with my colleagues and the American people about a woman whose whole life has been full of kindness, compassion and hard work. Wilma Dean of Bartholomew County, Indiana has worked for over twenty-five years at the Ramada Inn in Columbus, Indiana as a Senior Guest Representative. Throughout her years of service, she has strived to make people feel good about themselves. And on so many occasions Wilma has performed her duties above and beyond her job requirements. When asked, her co-workers will describe her as a wonderful lady who often stays late to help others. She even performs task outside of those assigned to her. Her co-workers remembered one memorable occasion when she assisted an elderly couple to their room because they were barely able to walk.

In her twenty-five years of service as a Ramada Inn employee, Wilma created a warm atmosphere for the guest that is similar to a home. She would do this through her courtesy and her ability to be a team-player.

Recently, Wilma was rewarded for her exceptional job performance. She was one of five hospitality employees to receive Ramada's nation-wide award: Hospitality Employee of the Year. Wilma's efforts were noticed from Ramada's sixty-thousand employees nationwide.

Wilma Dean's hard work, dedication and kindness is an important example for others to follow. Work hard. Be kind to others. And help your neighbor if you can.

Mr. Speaker, that is my Report from Indiana.

HONORING THE 1997 MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION II GIRLS SOCCER
STATE CHAMPIONS, SHEPHERD
HILL REGIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to honor the team members, coaches, and manager of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School 1997 Girls Soccer team. Hailing from Charlton, Massachusetts, this Shepherd Hill team captured the Division II State Title on November 22, 1997, defeating Marblehead High School in a 3–1 victory.

Before capturing the statewide Division II crown, this team achieved many accomplishments. While accumulating an impressive 18–5–1 record, their hard work both on and off the field secured for these fine players, coaches, and manager the Southern Worcester County League West Conference Championship, the District E Division II Championship, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Academic Excellence Gold Award for having a team Grade Point Average of 3.35.

In gaining these accolades, this Shepherd Hill team demonstrated that athletic and academic excellence can be achieved in tandem. For this reason in particular the 1997 Shepherd Hill Regional High School Girls Soccer Team is a model for athletic teams around both the nation and globe as they have shown that the qualities of determination, commitment, and effort are as important in the classroom as they are on the playing field.

I would finally like to congratulate each and every person associated with the 1997 Shepherd Hill Regional High School Girls Soccer Team. Please let me submit the names of those dedicated individuals who helped bring the Massachusetts Division II Girls Soccer State Championship Title to Shepherd Hill Regional High School. They are Team Co-Captains Katie Brothers, Trisha Cushing, Jen Langlois; Players, Katie Bembenek, Julia Faia, Jessica Frink, Gina Gregoire, Colleen Hackenson, Danielle Houle, Samantha Kane, Melissa Kasheta, Emily Koslowski, Tracy Koslowski, Elizabeth Laplante, Kerry Malone, Kristen Malone, Angela Minardi, Amanda Muise, Jenna Murphy, Moirra Murphy, Wendy

Paquin, Kelly Walsh, Megan Welch, Katelyn Weymouth; Head Coach Harry Logan; Assistant Coaches Karen Jensen and Jody McManus; and Manager Jim Rawson. From this great victory may come many more. Congratulations to you all!

VOTER ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMATION
SYSTEM IS A THREAT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern regarding legislative initiatives to restrict voter registration and turnout. The so-called "Voter Eligibility Confirmation System" in effect threatens voting rights of the American constituency.

As introduced, this legislation would establish a federal program for state and local elected officials to "confirm" the citizenship of registered voters and voter registration applicants. The proposal would allow elected officials to submit the names of voter registration applicants and registered voters to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Social Security Administration for citizenship confirmation through a computerized system.

With all due respect to my colleague, this is bad policy! The data on which this system is based is inaccurate. The fact is that an American citizen can have a social security number and stand the possibility of not being confirmed as a citizen by the Social Security Administration. Thousands of U.S. citizens were naturalized before the agency began keeping computer records at all. As a result, our fellow Americans will be targeted to have their voting rights undermined by the use of such a system.

Women and minorities in our Nation have historically been singled out and questioned based on their surnames or appearance. Although this American struggle has made many progressions, this act of discrimination should not and must not be tolerated by our distinguished House.

Under current federal and state laws, both voter registration fraud and voter fraud are crimes. The notion that massive citizenship verification procedures are needed does not align with the facts. The data received from the House Oversight Committee hearing in 1995 revealed that the real problem of voter fraud had to do with the abuses of State absentee ballot laws, not by Latinos or Asian Americans.

Let's get real. This bill attempts to set measures that not only overturns the Privacy Act projections, but recreates a system that affects the minorities in our America.

As the Honorable Jimmy Carter so eloquently stated in his 1981 farewell address, "America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense . . . human rights invented America."

As we move into the new millennium, let us continue to build bridges in our Nation. We need to address the facts of this proposed legislation and not be distracted by the rhetoric.

All Americans should have the inalienable right to vote and that right must not be determined based on whether an elected official decides that one of our fellow Americans is "ethnic-looking" versus "American-looking."